

FREEDOM BREAKS IN

THE Allies are beyond the Rhine, the last great barrier which protects Germany in the West. That fact alone brings the end of the war within sight and turns men's minds to the intricate task of so ordering life in Germany that such struggles as we have endured during the last thirty years cannot again be thrust upon civilised men.

The fact that the great river barrier of Germany has been crossed is a symbol of new beginnings in that country. The heroic and dramatic dash of the young troops across the bridge at Remagen was a token of a day of deliverance in which the new world raised the standard of liberty and brought into the old world beyond the Rhine the sign of freedom. History raced onwards with those armoured columns to mark a new stage in the remaking of the world. It was not only a river that was crossed but a significant obstacle in the progress of man.

For the German people the news that Allied troops are beyond the Rhine must mean the final end to any hope they may have harboured of ending the war by victory or by negotiation. While the great river barrier remained unchallenged hope of a way-out of their predicament was still justified, but with the onward march of the Allies eastward of the river all such hope disappears.

THIS then is the hour of new beginnings in the world and, we must hope, in Germany too. It has been necessary for the sense of defeat and hopelessness to invade the minds and spirits of the German people before a new start in Europe was possible. A whole nation is now passing through the valley of humiliation, and there in gloom and defeat the lessons of ambition and domination are being learned. That experience is part of the chastening of a nation without which there can be no restarting of the human and civilised life of Europe. It is a lesson of which we are all thinking this Eastertide when new hopes and ideals born of suffering and defeat are made manifest to all men. For is not the rebirth of hopes and ideals the supreme message of Easter?

Beyond the Rhine symbolises a stern destiny for Germany in which all the myth and magic which have surrounded her faith in herself disappear. Legends die hard, and the Rhine itself is enshrouded in the pagan romances which have become part of the German national faith.

One of those legends is the invincibility of Germany, accompanied by the myth of the master race. That could be killed only by what is now happening beyond the Rhine.

WAR ON SNAILS IN SOUTH AFRICA

"MORE dangerous than a pride of lions" is how an expert has described the test-tubes at the world's only anti-bilharzia laboratory, now at work in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. The test-tubes there hold samples of the microscopic bilharzia larvae which, entering the human body through the skin, infect it with a wasting and fatal disease. Investigations in the last few years have shown that, in Southern Rhodesia, one out of ten Europeans, and over three out of ten Africans, suffer from bilharzia.

Modern research has taken the step towards bilharzia control by finding out how the disease is spread. The bilharzia

worms are parasites on human beings and on certain kinds of water-snails. Man cannot catch the disease from man, but only from snail-infected water. For him, danger is lurking in the natural bathing pools of Southern Rhodesia, or in the water the market gardener may sprinkle on his lettuces to keep them fresh.

Now that the infection-chain has been traced, the experts have next to decide where and how it can best be broken. A most helpful idea is the destruction of the disease-carrying snails. The Salisbury experts are experimenting with all kinds of things that do this without fouling the water for human use.

Just outside the new laboratory, for example, grows the phrosia, a shrub whose every part is poisonous to water-snails, and the researchers are finding out whether this is so at every stage of the shrub's growth. Another snail-killer is the European fish, tench, which can easily be introduced into ponds and streams.

The widespread cleansing of water by these and other means requires the energetic co-operation of Africans and Europeans alike, and especially the farmers. Their work, however, will be well worth while, for it is predicted that, with care, bilharzia can eventually be stamped out over all Southern Rhodesia.

It must be buried beyond hope of resurrection and a new race of Germans reared who will regard their country's greatness as measured not by domination and over-lordship, but by the service she may render to the whole family of mankind. Such services can only be given by a people which has truly learned the message of Eastertide.

THEIR realisation of the utter falseness of their dreams of world conquest, and the evil deeds they have perpetrated for its attainment should mark a creative step forward in the life of the German people. Her natural genius for invention and organisation is needed by all mankind in the reshaping of a finer world. Out of this time of discipline and recasting of her national life will come, we must hope, immense new gifts which will enrich the beauty and wonder of man's life everywhere. We need from Germany new industries of peace, and a refounded generation of scientists who will see their task as leaders of peace and not fashioners of war. We need from Germany a great revival of the arts which will add colour and romance to the story of mankind. For, thirty years this great people has been dedicated to enterprises which produce death and destruction. Let it now begin to embark on those adventures which add lasting glory and honour to men.

We need from Germany a new generation of musicians who, resuming the traditions of the great masters, will again stir the souls of men. Germany's devilish ingenuities have brought tragedy and suffering to countless homes. Not easily will all that be forgotten. But Germany herself can hasten the day of renewed friendship by a sincere and speedy adoption of civilised ways of life.

IT may be that a new race of poets, painters, musicians, and scientists will arise in Germany to save the soul of a people from utter destruction and, by a new enriching stream of the fine, the beautiful, and the free, bring fresh life to all the world. It may indeed be that the land of Luther will again produce a religious genius to bring his own people back to God.

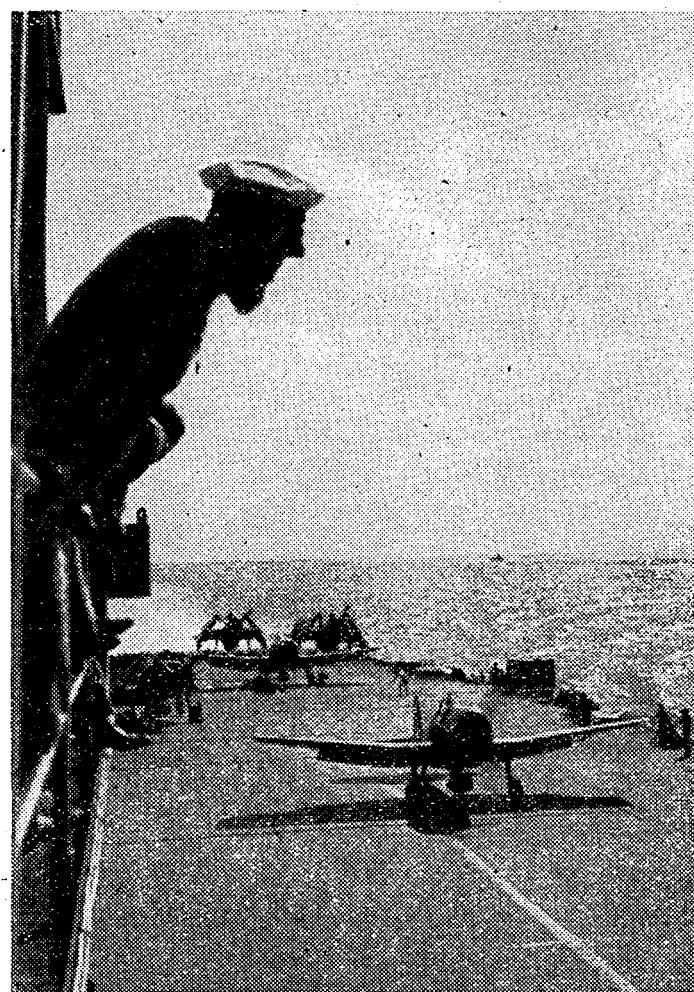
Beyond the Rhine symbolises the end of the Germany we have known, and marks the beginning of a new Germany. Tyranny, bad faith, treachery, and evil-doing must now depart from the life and plans of a whole people, and a new order of freedom, honour, and righteousness enter in. It will take a generation to accomplish this revolution, but unless it is accomplished with stern resoluteness there is no hope of a peaceful world.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

EVERY
TUESDAY
3d

POSTAGE
Inland 1d
Abroad 4d
No 1358

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Aircraft Carrier in Action

On board HMS Indomitable, one of Britain's carriers, members of the crew watch Hellcat planes on the flight deck during an attack on Japanese-occupied Sumatra.

EMIR AND PRIVATE

PRIVATE MALLAM LAWAN, in his drill uniform and bush hat, is the most travelled soldier of the Royal West African Frontier Force volunteers now fighting in Burma. He was among the first people to meet the Emir of Katsina, in Northern Nigeria, when the African ruler, in his white robes of office, stepped from the aeroplane that brought him to India. Since then Private Lawan has travelled over 14,000 miles in personal attendance upon the Emir.

The Emir of Katsina saw much of India and its marvels, but his main interest was in visiting and

talking to his fellow-countrymen in the Forces. Private Lawan, known by his fellows and his officers as a good soldier, and a steady, cheerful companion, gave the Emir a near view of the best kind of West-African soldier.

So the Emir had at his elbow a man who not only knew the ways of Army life, but could help him in conversation with all the tribesmen, speaking different languages, in the Force. When they parted, the private carried away the memory of a gracious ruler, and the Emir returned to Katsina prouder than ever of the soldiers of West Africa.

The Band Leader Has a New Mace

THE first Redditch company of the Boys Brigade has made a new mace for its band leader.

First, the captain's BB collar-badges were joined together with screw and nut to form the top adornment of the mace. A derelict metal vase and a bit of an old motor-horn were then welded together to form the mace head. To this was welded a metal tube which in turn was fitted tightly over the head of an old broom handle—polished and

shaped. Two screw-eyes secured the staff to the head and provided the attachment for the cord. At the other end of the broom handle—now stained and glistening—was a tapered metal tube to form the ferrule. Then all the metal parts were chromium-plated and the mace-bearer led out the Redditch band for its first march with the new mace.

And its cost? Exactly three shillings and fourpence.

MR CHURCHILL LOOKS AHEAD

IN his vigorous speech to his Party the other day Mr Winston Churchill made it abundantly clear that he desires his name to live as a builder-up of his country no less than as its champion in preserving it from ruthless foes.

It will always redound to his credit that throughout the strenuous years of conflict, when he and his Ministers were overwhelmed by the exacting tasks of running the war, Mr Churchill insisted on the full rights of the representatives of the people to express their opinions in Parliament. So typical a Parliament man is he that he is, we think, really welcoming the impending General Election because it will make the people more vividly aware than ever of their own effective share in the government of this country.

There were, indeed, in his speech many words of wisdom which his political opponents as well as his supporters will endorse. His insistence on freedom for all states and nations within the circle of the Crown, and for individuals within the broad and ever-advancing conception of the British Constitution and the British way of life, is a warning to any who still consider a beneficent dictatorship a possible form of government anywhere. He urged, too, that fair play and a minimum of party and personal rancour should mark the conduct of the General Election; and above all the least possible injury to the underlying unity of the nation in serving the national cause.

Mr Churchill rightly spoke with pride of that Four-year Plan

which two years ago he put forward as the task for the new Parliament after the war. His present Government has already made progress with that programme—the Education Act, for example—but, he declared, "Whatever Government is in power will not only have to turn White Papers into Acts of Parliament, but to make the Acts a living, active, and harmonious part of our social system."

There was another passage in Mr Churchill's speech which, we think, truly sums up the attitude of the British people today. "Never at any moment more than this," he declared, "have they wished and meant to face realities." And he spoke of this time as one "for grim, stark facts and figures, and for action to meet immediate needs." "Mental toil and physical sweat, the conscious, united resolve of every man and woman to give all that is in them will be required of us long after the last bomb or cannon has ceased to thunder" was another telling phrase.

Many new representatives of the people of these islands will sit at Westminster—it may even be that an entirely new Government will be raised to power; but the resolution of which Mr Churchill spoke will be as necessary for them all as it has been for their predecessors in these strenuous days of conflict.

An Essential Freedom

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has been speaking about the new attitude that has been developing in this country concerning the equal rights of all races in Dependent Territories.

He based his talk on a statement of views and policy issued by the Conference of Missionary Societies with which the British Council of Churches has associated itself.

Dr Fisher pointed out that the statement made it clear that racial discrimination still existed and that its removal in all countries for which we were

responsible should be undertaken on right principles. He added:

"The only right course is that by which people of any race are given full opportunity of developing their characteristics and of utilising their opportunities as such without any barrier being imposed from outside. This is the right principle because it is the principle of Christianity. It is a fundamental principle of this country, the essential freedom of all people to live the communal life and have the respect of all. It is also, in fact, morally and politically expedient."

OUR FRIEND TURKEY

TO most people Turkey has been something of an enigma during the present war. Our enemy in 1914-18, she has been our friend in the present struggle, but she has not taken any part in the war as a belligerent nation.

Admiral Sir Howard Kelly, who has spent some four years in Turkey, has told the Royal Empire Society that the active entry of Turkey into the war, while it would have been a diplomatic victory, might also have been a military disaster, for it would have necessitated the diversion of large quantities of men and material from other theatres of war which might have seriously affected the success of our operations. Admiral Kelly said that Turkey had helped us in many ways, and her influence on the Moslem world had been of enormous benefit to our cause.

A Realistic Film

THE FIGHTING LADY sounds a very forbidding title. But the "lady" in this case is an American aircraft-carrier, the stirring deeds of which are told realistically in a film in Technicolor now being shown at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, London.

The operations of The Fighting Lady and her aircraft in the Pacific are depicted just as they really happen, and without that fictional padding which ruins so many films. The crew of nearly three thousand are the actors, and Lieutenant Robert Taylor, USNR, who is known to all picture-goers, is the narrator.

The Fighting Lady is a very worthy addition to the many valuable documentary films which the war has produced.

It is good to know that all profits from the distribution of The Fighting Lady in this country are to be shared by the Royal Navy and United States Navy charities.

The Navy to the Rescue

NOR long ago British and Canadian sailors stood on the decks of their four destroyers in a Norwegian fjord and gazed in wonder at the strange sight on shore. Down the steep snow-clad slopes to the water's edge came a procession of skiers, men, women carrying babies, and even little children on small skis. There were 525 of them, all Norwegians, mostly women and children, and they were the people the sailors had come to rescue. Boldly the destroyers had sailed in broad daylight up a fjord within the German lines.

The refugees had come to the shore on a pre-arranged signal of a Very light fired by a Norwegian in a small boat.

For three months these stricken people had been living in caves, hunted by German soldiers, their only food small quantities of fish and meat from reindeer the men sometimes caught. For their homes had been burnt by the Nazis, and these patriots had taken to the mountains rather than work as slaves for the enemy. Their rescue was arranged by the Norwegian Government with the British Authorities.

When the destroyers' boats had got the refugees on board their danger—and that of their rescuers—was by no means over. With such a tightly packed cargo of suffering humanity it was out of the question for the small men-o'-war to engage in a sea fight with hostile warships. Darkness soon fell, however, and the four gallant destroyers steamed at full speed all night to evade the enemy, and reached port in safety next day.

WHAT IS A PALATINATE?

THE American Seventh Army has been fighting recently in the Palatinate north of Alsace. What is a palatinate? some C N readers may ask:

The word is derived from Palatium, which was the name of one of the Seven Hills of Rome. This was the aristocratic part of the ancient city. Augustus Caesar lived there in the House of Livia, which still stands, but his successors built themselves magnificent abodes which took the name of the Hill.

In the Roman Empire the name "palatinus" was given to a palace official, and so a servant of the ruler. In France and Germany Counts Palatine appeared about the eighth century. Their districts were called palatinates, the most important being the Palatinate of the Rhine, which our American allies have now entered.

In England counties palatine were formed, too. Lancashire is an example, Edward the Third thus establishing it for his famous son, John of Gaunt. Today our King is the Duke of Lancaster, and he appoints the county sheriff.

The Speedy York

THE Avro York plane which took Viscount Swinton to Cape Town for the Empire African Air Conference broke the London-Cape Town record by finishing the journey in 38 hours, 44 minutes. The previous record was 39 hours 30 minutes.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

RADIUM worth £1200 has been bought for Egyptian hospitals as the result of special showings in Cairo of the film Madame Curie.

The Shetland is a British civil flying boat, weighing 100 tons and designed to carry between 50 and 100 passengers.

The Treasury has granted the Royal Society £22,600 for its next year of scientific work.

British bicycle manufacturers aim at producing 500,000 machines for export and another 500,000 for the Home market this year.

The Queen has presented to Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands four convoys, known as Queen's Messengers, for relief work in Holland.

The unhappy death of Arthur Warne, of Folkestone, aged 13, occurred when he picked up a mortar bomb or some other form of explosive and threw it on the ground. It exploded, killing him and injuring another boy.

SCORES of towns in the U.S. intend to close their public houses and open their churches on the day Germany is defeated.

A Parliamentary question to the Prime Minister about variation in written dates has been sent in a letter from his son, Major Randolph Churchill, M.P., who points out that in Britain, 1 10 45, means October 1, 1945, but in America means January 10, 1945.

Liberation News Reel

THE Headquarters of the German Army General Staff at Zossen, 20 miles south of Berlin, was recently bombed by 650 Allied aircraft.

America will send 500,000 tons of wheat to France before next August.

Recent bombing attacks on German communications in Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary were the first in which Russian and American planes were over their targets together.

Men of the Royal Berkshire Regiment captured the railway station at Mandalay.

San Francisco expects 3500 official visitors for the United Nations Security Conference, beginning April 25.

Enemy prisoners taken by the armies of the British Commonwealth on all fronts since the war began total over one million.

JAPAN suffered its worst air raid of the war recently when Super-Fortresses made a low level incendiary attack on Osaka, the second largest city of Japan.

Youth News Reel

THE Silver Cross has been awarded to Patrol Leader D. H. Gilbert, of the 3rd Hillingdon Group, and to Patrol Leader E. Stainthorpe, of the 40th Bradford West Group, for assisting in the rescue of young children from drowning.

Dutch local authorities are planning a chain of rehabilitation centres in readiness for returning Dutch people who were compelled to work in Germany, and have appealed to local Scout Associations to form messenger services linking them.

Princess Elizabeth has become Commodore of the Sea Ranger Section of the Girl Guides which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year.

In reply to questions about civil air travel after the war, 60 per cent of prospective American passengers stated they were opposed to the supply of alcohol on board air liners.

Rota, Mr Churchill's lion at the Zoo, is the father of three new cubs. Janet is the mother.

During 1944 nearly £307,500,000 was paid over Post Office counters in war pensions, and service and billeting allowances.

THE 105th birthday of Mrs Rebecca Havers of Leytonstone was celebrated not long ago by a party given to 1200 people.

A letter containing ten shillings was sent to Rags, the dog at the South Side Fire Station, Royal Albert Docks. Rags sent his photograph in reply with a message saying: "Hoping you will make me your pin-up dog."

A pillbox built in 1940 at Stowmarket in case of invasion is to be turned into a public seat.

The self-heating cans of soup, cocoa, and malted milk now used by Allied troops will be on sale to the public after the war. The contents of the cans are made hot in less than five minutes.

The Duke of Gloucester has opened Sydney's £9,000,000 graving dock.

Four Lancashire and Cheshire cotton spinning mills which are to reopen will require between 12,000 and 14,000 operatives.

A party of torpedoed Chinese sailors lived on a waterless island for ten weeks, obtaining a cupful each day by distilling sea water. They were rescued because they put rubber on their fire to make more smoke and thus attracted a Catalina aircraft.

A German midget submarine was sunk not long ago by an unarmed R.A.F. Anson plane which dived on it. The commander jumped overboard and the vessel overturned and sank.

The Brenner Pass through the Alps between Austria and Italy was closed to the Germans for 44 days recently by Allied planes whose bombs cut the railway tracks.

Without losing a single plane, American Air Transport Command delivered 13,606 aircraft to England between September, 1942, and the end of 1944.

To help Marshal Zhukov's advancing forces, Flying Fortresses and Liberators recently dropped more than 3500 bombs of 1000 lbs each on the German naval base of Swinemunde.

Hull Boy Scouts were among the many who helped Dutch children who recently came here. They prepared beds, sewed tabs on towels, and pinned bright pictures on the walls of the children's hostels.

Officers and Boys of the Boys Brigade who heard Derek Barsham singing at the Albert Hall Display or broadcasting, will be interested to know that his first gramophone record has just been issued.

Arrangements have been completed by the Glasgow Battalion of The Boys Brigade to mark the pronouncement of peace in Europe by holding a large community memorial and thanksgiving service at Hampden Park.

SEAFARERS' GIFT TO THE NAVY

THE people of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in the Pacific are going to make a present to the Royal Navy. It is the second instalment of a war gift for which the money began to be collected in 1943, when many of the islanders' homes had not yet been freed from the Japanese invader. The Pacific people are seafarers, building and sailing their own ocean-going canoes, so they decided that their money should be used to help Allied sea-warfare. They aimed to collect £2250, which would pay for a 35-foot tender.

Meanwhile, Allied forces in the Pacific were driving the Japanese from island after island. Soon many more Gilbertese and Ellice Islanders were freed, and their thanksgiving war gifts soon brought the fund up to £2250—and more. The tender was bought and presented, and the money left over has grown and grown with further contributions. Now the islanders have enough to present a second tender to the Royal Navy.

TRAVELLING SHOP WINDOWS

By November this year caravan trains will be touring South Africa and South America as "shop windows" for British goods. This scheme will be expanded to include five continents when the war is over.

This scheme is designed to advertise the goods of medium and smaller manufacturers who are not normally able to advertise on a very extensive scale. Each train will have a crew of 150 specialist salesmen.

BUILDING A LIBRARY ANEW

Good news comes from the ancient City of London. There are plans ready for restoring its famous library at the Guildhall, badly blitzed when 25,000 of its books, many of them rare, were destroyed.

This fine room has witnessed many historic scenes on the gala days and nights when for generations the City Fathers welcomed notable guests before their banquets.

Historical societies all over the kingdom have helped to replace its losses, and the public have also contributed most generously, and are still doing so. The Librarian, Mr Raymond Smith, says that when all is put in order, the Library of the Corporation will be better than ever. It has always had many book treasures, and antiquarians as well as readers loved it well.

Restoring Canterbury

Our little city of Canterbury, cradle of English Christianity, which was singled out by the Nazis for wanton destruction, is to be restored and given modern conveniences on a plan which will not mar its medieval charm, and will ensure that the exasperating pre-war traffic congestion in its narrow streets will not recur. The plan, made by Dr Charles Hobden and Mr H. M. Enderby, has been approved by the City Council.

The chief feature of the plan is the provision of two circular roads, the outer one ringing the city at a radius of two miles, which will meet the local roads only at controlled junctions.

THE worst of the material troubles of Poland's refugees are over, and we hope the day is rapidly approaching when most of them will be home again. In the meantime, their hosts in many parts of the world are continuing their good offices.

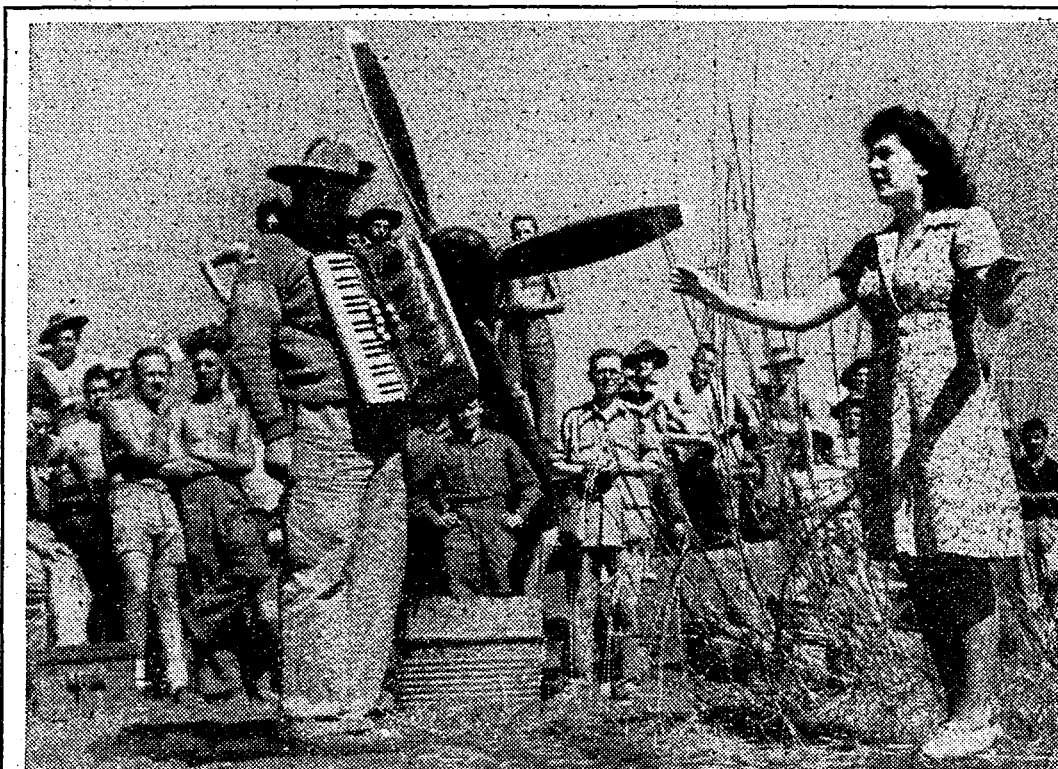
We hear from the Near East that the work now being done for those of them who have found a temporary refuge in Palestine is not spectacular. But having recovered from their arduous travels these people, mainly women and children, are troubled about their future, and still need the encouragement and support of relief workers

who enter sympathetically into their problems and can act as "middlemen" between the refugees and Government officials. "We are fit physically, but we carry a load on our hearts" say the women in a Home for mothers and babies.

So the present duties of relief workers consist of "a hundred and one seemingly small and trivial things that occur almost every day and which can make all the difference to a refugee." A request for materials to make baby clothes may entail long waits in Government offices; suggestions are asked for about extra foodstuffs for babies; the

purity of a water supply needs investigating. Some business means "tracking down the British Liaison Unit to Poles, who seem to move their headquarters very frequently."

Altogether, much time is spent in "to-ing and fro-ing from one office to another," in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv; patient, wearisome work which is likely to be required from most relief officials for a long time to come, in many parts of the world. "What is being done in Palestine may be only a very small part of the whole," writes one Quaker, "but the whole cannot be achieved without its small parts."



ENSA in Burma

British troops resting from their advance on Mandalay are entertained by Miss Jean Neville and another artist of an ENSA company touring Burma.

BRITISH MUSIC IN RUSSIA

SOVIET WAR NEWS has revealed the fact that British music is popular in Russian aircraft factories. The works of Purcell, Sullivan, Elgar, and Delius are the favourites of those Soviet workers who have heard records of them made by the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Sir Henry Wood. After the Moscow State Conservatoire had given a concert at a factory of British music the Conservatoire received hundreds of requests for gramophone records and scores of the works played.

PENICILLIN SOON FOR SALE

WITHIN two or three months that chemical wonder of the age which everyone knows as penicillin will be on sale in chemists' shops and so will be available for anyone needing it.

This has been stated by Professor T. B. Davie, Professor of Pathology in the University of Liverpool, who says that penicillin is the nearest approach to a miracle in the history of medicine. It is a cure for so many things. Some skin diseases, says Professor Davie, can be cleared up in 24 hours by the use of penicillin. It is being prepared in various forms, including powder and cream, and as pastilles for the throat.

APPROPRIATE

A MEMORIAL after his own heart is to be established for Mr Henry C. Creasy, organist for nearly thirty years, until his death last January, at Christ Church, Ramsgate.

In tribute to his long service the memorial chosen by his Church Council is to educate Mr Creasy's grandson for two years to be an organist also.

A memorial tablet inscribing this resolution is to be fixed to the organ Mr Creasy played so faithfully for so long.

THE MAGISTRATE AND THE GLOVES

GLOVES are scarce in Australia, and so are vegetables.

It is an old English tradition that a magistrate shall receive a pair of white gloves when there are no cases to be heard in his court, and it is followed in Australia and New Zealand. When, for the first time in seven years, there were no cases in the Perth Children's Court, the magistrate said, "I want a pair of gloves—leather ones for gardening."

He got them—and without any coupons!

A Happy Exchange of Gifts

A DAY or two after his speech at Churchill House, where he advocated the exchange of books by his nation and our own, Mr Winant, the American Ambassador, paid a visit to Bedford to do a little private exchanging on his own account.

His primary object was to visit a USA Red Cross Club, but Bedford's mayor took the opportunity of handing him some books on the town and county as a gift, to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Then the mayor gave to the Ambassador as a personal gift a copy of Bunyan's Pilgrim's

Progress. To his surprise and delight Mr Winant handed him a book in return, an autographed first edition of John Wesley's sermon The Great Assize.

Few books could have been more welcome, for this sermon had been preached in St Paul's Church at Bedford before the judge in circuit, and the mayor and corporation, in 1758. Twenty years earlier John Wesley had returned from a two years' mission to the Colony of Georgia, the whole of which he regarded as his parish. So all Americans feel that they have a link with our great 18th century evangelist.

UNSELFISH HEROISM

UNSELFISH heroism are the unofficial words describing the deed that won the George Cross for Flying Officer Roderick Gray of Canada. When his Wellington plane was brought down in the Atlantic by a U-boat's guns, four wounded men got clear of it. Flying Officer Gray's leg was smashed, but he inflated his rubber dinghy and helped two others into it. There was no room in the tiny craft for him and he refused to allow the others to try to help him, but he clung to its side in the water, suffering terrible pain all through the night.

When dawn came his arm still gripped the side of the dinghy, but he was dead. The others were rescued.

Unselfish heroism, too, was displayed by Leading Aircraftwoman Kathleen McKinlay, who during the blitz days in Dover continued to drive casualties to hospital—under fire, making several journeys, although she was wounded in her right hand, foot, and left thigh. Not until all the casualties had been removed would she have her own wounds attended. She has been awarded the B.E.M.

BOYS OF THE OLD BRIGADE

SIXTY years ago, in March, 1885, the first contingent of soldiers ever to set sail from any British possession left Australia to join the British Army in the Sudan to help in the fight against the Mahdi, who, with his tribesmen, was sweeping north in an attempt to overthrow the Egyptian Government.

Of the original contingent of 750 soldiers, 40 are still alive. A few weeks ago 38 of these held a jubilee celebration in Sydney. The other two were unable to attend owing to ill-health.

THE GRAND OLD LADY

CREDITED with a service of 300,000 miles over a dozen different countries the Dakota Fd833, known as the Grand Old Lady to all serving with the Transport Command in the Middle East, is still doing excellent work in conveying troops and materials.

Perhaps her most striking feat was the first flight she undertook with her squadron when she was sent to North Africa to recover a large number of Merlin engines buried during a retreat from a certain airfield, and dug up again after Montgomery's men had recaptured the site. The Grand Old Lady carried scores of loads of this invaluable treasure back to Cairo without the slightest mishap.

March 31, 1945

The Child



The Friendly Field-Marshal

During his recent visit to Belgrade Field-Marshal Alexander was followed by crowds of enthusiastic Yugoslavs. Here he is posing for a young admirer's camera.

THE SHAPE OF PLANES TO COME

VERY great has been the progress of aeronautical science in the past few years, but the future holds much that is greater.

So that Britain shall continue to play a worthy part in this progress the Government are to create a vast new aircraft research station. This is to be situated near Bedford, and a great feature of the station will be several wind tunnels in which model planes will be tested in varying air conditions simulated by artificial means. Our biggest wind tunnel at present is one of 4000 h.p., but Bedford is to have several of 40,000 h.p. and, eventually, one of 100,000 h.p. From observations of the behaviour of the models in known air conditions very valuable information can be gained. In one tunnel the problems of high speeds will be studied, perhaps in another those of low speeds, and in others the effects due to high altitudes will be reproduced.

There will also be much testing equipment at the new station, where full-size parts of planes will be tested to destruction. According to Mr A. T. Lennox-Boyd,

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, we shall be concerned with designing aircraft that will travel faster than sound—more than 700 m.p.h. We shall have a much smaller Air Force after the war, but it must be highly efficient and so must be our civil air services.

To keep in the forefront of design we must have an elaborate plant in which new ideas can be tried out. The new research station will provide all that is needed, and it will require an electrical plant as big as that of Manchester to keep it running.

There are many reasons why the Bedford area is to be the new heart of British air power. It is close to London and the great aircraft works, and also to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and the Midlands; a very large airfield is available; weather conditions are favourable; and electric power can be readily made available.

The new station, which is to replace the research centre at Farnborough, will not be in full operation for ten years, although half of it will be ready in five years.

Beside the Seaside

SEASIDE holidays again make a pleasant prospect, even though for many of us they are still a rather dim prospect; and the seaside towns, so many of which, on the South and East coasts, have had such grim times during the last few years, are busy getting their houses in order—and their shores.

The National Federation of Permanent Holiday Camps has asked the Government for early release of the requisitioned camps, and many of the holiday towns, such as Margate, Torquay, and Ventnor, have brave new plans for the entertainment of war-weary Britons, typical among them being the Hastings scheme, for a national holiday centre for 7000 people with 12 acres of winter gardens.

Well, we all wish success to the planners, and prosperity to those

towns which of late have had such a lean time. And who is there among us who does not long once more to stroll along the gay promenade, to hear the band strike up, and, most of all, feel that deep inner happiness that comes from watching the children intent on building castles in the sand, while their elders, perchance, are building castles in the air.

WAR ON PESTS

A NEW insecticide called Gammexane, or 666, has been developed by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Gammexane is five times more powerful than DDT, the insecticide used by British troops in Burma, and kills locusts, wireworms, caterpillars, the larvae of the yellow-fever mosquito, the grain weevil, the apple-blossom weevil, and many other insect pests.

A Speech Undelivered

DR INGE sees little hope for Democracy—that is, government by the people—in Central Europe. They have tried our parliamentary democracy, and it does not suit them, he says. Democracy is the growth of centuries with us; it is new and of sudden evolution for them.

The meaning and implications of Democracy have also been discussed by many other authorities recently. Lord Quickswood, in an article in the Sunday Times, has suggested that Representative Government would be a wiser term to use when we say that we want Democracy in Greece or Poland. He points out that though the national government of mankind is carried out by the Few, the Many with their power of expressing their views through the Press and even in general conversation do exert a general and constant influence on political affairs. "There is a kind of moral boundary marked out by the general sentiment of the people, beyond which no politician will venture."

A generation or so ago another political philosopher, Lord Morley, was prevented by a curious timidity on the part of a Scot from explaining what he understood Democracy to mean.

When the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution invited him to address them, Lord Morley set to work writing a discourse that it would have profited the people of many European States to study.

He afterwards recorded how he had half-written his discourse, "how the rule of numbers is to be reconciled with the rule of sage judgment, and the passion for liberty and equality is to be reconciled with sovereign regard for law, order, and authority, and how our hopes for the future are to be linked to wise reverence for tradition and the past." He got no farther. The secretary of the Institution wrote emphatically warning him off "all politics," and the address was never delivered, nor ever completed and published.

FRUITS OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION

WHEN the Great International Exhibition held at Hyde Park in 1851 ended a Royal Commission was set up by Queen Victoria to distribute the Exhibition proceeds for public purposes. An estate in Kensington was purchased, and from the annual income it yielded the commission has promoted education in the Arts and Sciences. Lord Macmillan is the chairman of the Board of Management, and Sir James Jeans presides over the Science Scholarships Committee.

At the 148th meeting held a few days ago it was announced that over two million pounds had been distributed up to date.

Scholarships for research work and engineering have figured prominently among the commission's gifts. These have benefited many of our most eminent men of science, including 66 Fellows of the Royal Society, and no fewer than six Nobel prize-winners.

The commission's industrial bursary scheme has helped to place in industry over six hundred university graduates who could not depend on their parents for financial support after their scholarships had come to an end.

EDITOR'S TABLE

Children's Champion

LORD WOOLTON, Minister of Reconstruction and a member of the War Cabinet, is a champion of the cause of children. In a speech at Birmingham recently he declared that our hopes for a better Britain depend for their fulfilment on the character of the children, and that character must be given a chance of growth in strong bodies, fortified by the best that the State can offer in education, health services, and opportunity.

Lord Woolton went on to say that when he became Minister of Food he decided that, whatever else might happen during the war, children should not suffer in health because of insufficient or improper feeding. So he got going the scheme for special nourishment for children and mothers with young babies, and it was working within six weeks. At present, he stated, 4,250,000 out of 5,500,000 children are covered by the school milk scheme.

A HAPPY GESTURE

SOUTHERN RHODESIA has once again given proof of her determination to continue her good will and fellowship through the years of peace ahead.

Sir Godfrey Huggins, her Prime Minister, has announced that his Government have offered an air station in Southern Rhodesia as a temporary home for a farm school for British orphans. Sir Godfrey says that they hope also to accept Scandinavian war orphans, because Scandinavians mix so readily with the British.

There is, of course, an affinity between Great Britain and Norway which is close and unmistakable; and the children of the lands of fiords ought to make good companions for those from our own homeland.

CARRY ON

FLEETING STAY

FAIR daffodils, we weep to see

You haste away so soon;

As yet the early rising Sun
Has not attained his noon.

Stay, stay

Until the hasting day

Has run

But to the evensong;

And, having prayed together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as
you,

We have as short a spring;

As quick a growth to meet decay
As you, or anything.

We die,

As your hours do, and dry

Away

Like to the summer's rain;

Or as the pearls of morning's dew
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick

THIS F

Now that the European war is drawing to its close, much is being said in high places about wartime controls.

The Lord Mayor of London, speaking at the Institute of Marine Engineers recently, said that, while the people, without regret, had handed over their freedom with both hands to those who were running the war, the time was coming when the City of London would say, politely but very firmly, that this freedom must be handed back again.

On the other hand, Mr Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour, in a recent speech, pointed out that, when the unwinding process takes place, controls of one kind or another will be absolutely vital to assist resettlement.

Skilled Teachers

THERE are two points about the new Education Regulation described on page 6, which call for special comment.

The intention to employ not but qualified teachers at the earliest possible moment is to be heartily welcomed and will be endorsed by all educationists.

As to the sizes of the classes, while we are aware

Under the

HOLIDAY-MAKERS this year will be given a helping hand around. Go on circular tours.

It is mere impudence for some people to call themselves cooks. Perhaps they only use saucepans.

WATER power will solve many of mankind's problems. Including how to keep clean.

A LONDON telephone worker has not been late for forty-two years. The authorities should give her a ring.

PETER WANKIN



If spring time over a

Definition of

THE true gentleman carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast—clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment his great concern being to make every one at their ease and home. He has his eyes on his company; he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd. He can recollect whom he is speaking. He guards against unreasonable allusions or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome.

The Importance of Time

OUR time is like our money: when we change a guinea the shillings escape as things of small account; when we break a day of idleness in the morning the rest of the hours lose their importance to our eyes.

Sir Walter Scott

REEDOM

He mentioned rationing, control of prices, of quality of goods, and of the building trades for housing purposes, as measures which must be preserved, for a time at least, when peace returns.

At the end of the last war many mistakes were made both in maintaining too long and in releasing too hastily the restrictions under D O R A (Defence of the Realm Act). This time all restrictions which are vitally necessary in the people's own interests should be continued with firmness, but all the rest scrapped. The decisions, however, should rest with Parliament. It is not sufficiently realised that only 238 of the 1479 orders and regulations imposed in 1944 found their way into Parliament.

nd Smaller Classes

the present shortage of teachers and accommodation, we hope that the Government will see to it that at the earliest practicable opportunity, no class, under any circumstances, has more than thirty pupils, and fewer still if that can be done. Thus alone will more individual attention to pupils become possible, to the advantage of both teacher and pupil.

Editor's Table

A COMMITTEE has been re-appointed, to keep a watch on waste. It was wound up.

PUCK
TS TO
OW



ig is the
to turn
new leaf

A MAN says there are only three original jokes. But most of us can take one.

CLASSES for dog lovers have been started in London. At Barking?

A MAN says he can go to sleep on his bicycle. Drops off.

FINCHLEY civic restaurant has made a net profit of £400. Didn't know it sold nets.

a Gentleman

He makes light of favours while he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring. He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort. He has no ears for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets everything for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out.

Cardinal Newman

THE DAILY TEACHERS

LOVE had he found in huts where poor men lie;
His daily teachers had been woods and rills,
The silence that is in the starry sky,
The sleep that is among the lonely hills.

Wordsworth

The Bond of Brogue

A NAVAL man has written home telling how, through his brogue, he found a friend among strangers.

He was attending a dinner at Johannesburg and was called upon to respond to the toast to the visitors. Scarcely had he said his "piece" when an elderly gentleman approached and held out his hand in friendly greeting.

"As soon as I heard you speak," said he, "I knew you were a Cornishman. You were like the smell of a breeze blowing across Mounts Bay when I heard you. It was proper handsome!" This man also spoke with the West Country "burr," although he had left his home nearly half-a-century before. Even in long exile the brogue of childhood persists.

There is no mistaking the accent of the Scotsman, the Welshman, the West-Countryman, the Londoner, and the Lancastrian. All have their different dialects, and when the listener hears his native tongue far away from home it is as sweet music to his ear. Their common possession draws them together.

A Trade Route For Peace

RECENTLY published figures reveal that our exports to Russia last year were valued at £23,876,000, against exports worth only £9,549,000 the year before.

Much of this trade would have gone through Russia's Arctic ports, which have proved to be so valuable to our Allies during the war. Let us hope their usefulness will last long into the days of peace for our mutual benefit, for if Russia has great need of our engineering products our need is just as great for her raw materials.

JUST AN IDEA

As Pythagoras advised, Choose the best way of life, and habit will soon make it pleasant to you.

The Unity of Nature

THERE is no note of all the woodland singing
That fails to find its echo in my breast;
I know the lyrics of a love that's I know the rapture of a lover's winging.

There is no fearful cry from danger springing
That fails my eager pulses to arrest;
The anguish that betrays the threatened nest

Tears at my heart, its tocsin wildly ringing.
Poignant my soul with all the world of being,
In nature's choir no foreign note I hear;

In every life my own creation seeing,
I know how well the triumph and the fear.
At one with life, let thanks for life be given—

Hark! How the lark's glad orison mounts to heaven!

L. C. M.

The Town-Crier's Return

THE lifting of the ban on the ringing of handbells has restored an old familiar sound to little towns where the crier still does duty. His bell has been silent a long time, but now the clang, clang, clang is heard again, summoning all to give ear to his announcements of local moment—meetings, concerts, and auction sales. For generations he has been the broadcaster of events to the parochial world, and even when anything was lost the loser just "sent the crier around."

"I well remember my first call 50 years ago," a town-crier told a CN correspondent. "It was about a boy's lost boot. I felt like creeping into a mouse-hole when I rang the bell for the first time and heard the sound of my own voice in the streets. After I had 'cried' the loss at three 'pitches,' the finder came running to me boot in hand."

This man's father and grandfather were criers before him, and he told how his father once went on his rounds through the streets in the dead of night, calling in his deep, penetrating voice: "The church is on fire! The church is on fire! But the strangest message he remembers concerned himself. "A travelling menagerie came to town," said he, "and the proprietors offered a prize to anyone bold enough to enter the lions' den. I accepted the challenge, and made the following proclamation at my eight 'pitches': This is to give notice that I shall enter the lions' den in Cross Park Field this evening at 8 o'clock sharp!"

"A great crowd flocked to the menagerie and packed the tent. A breathless hush fell on the spectators when I entered the cage and began to stroke the lions. I stayed there five minutes and then, walking backwards, all the while gazing steadily into the eyes of the wild beasts, I came out. No sooner was the door closed than the lions gave a deafening roar and leapt angrily to the bars. The people cheered wildly. Few knew that I had a rehearsal in the afternoon and had been told just what to do. I received 19s for my little 'turn,' and one shilling for 'crying' it!"

His gladdest message was in 1918 when the fighting ceased; but now, over 70 years of age, he looks forward to the day when the clang, clang, clang of his bell will herald the glad news that another war is over, another victory won!

A SHIP ADOPTS A HOSPITAL

IT often happens that a ship is adopted by some organisation—sometimes a school—which sends letters, books, papers, and so on to the crew. The reverse also happens, as in the case of HMS Northern Reward which has adopted a children's hospital, the Margaret Beavan Hospital at Liverpool.

Every time the Northern Reward returns to port the ship's company make a collection of chocolate to send to the children. Even more appreciated than the chocolate was a whole stalk of bananas, amounting to sixteen dozen, which the sailors brought home for the children recently.

THE DISTINGUISHED KIT-CATS

THE National Portrait Gallery has recently been enriched with 44 paintings by Sir Godfrey Kneller of members of the Kit-Cat Club, presented by the National Art-Collections Fund.

This gift is grand in its scale and extremely important in its nature, for, as our great historian, George M. Trevelyan, has stated, "It is unexampled for its combination of historic interest with artistic merit."

The Kit-Cat Club was founded late in the 17th century, during the declining days of Stuart power, and to adorn its walls Sir Godfrey Kneller painted his own portrait, and those of all his fellow club-members.

The club-room not being lofty enough for full-length portraits, the painter accordingly made them half-length, some 36 inches by 28 inches, with at least one hand showing, and this style and size of portrait in time became known as Kit-Cat. They were all painted in the last 20 years or so before his death in 1723; and, indeed, they may be considered the crowning achievement of this German-born and somewhat vain-glorious artist, whom Alexander Pope once taunted with the question "Don't you really think that if your advice had been asked at Creation some things would have been shaped far better than they are?"

We have it on the authority of one of the most illustrious of all the club's members (Joseph Addison, writing in The Spectator) that "The Kit-Cat itself is said to have taken its original from a Mutton-Pye." That, of course, was merely one of Addison's pleasantries, the truth being that the club first met weekly at the house of one Christopher Cat, a pastrycook of Shire Lane, near Temple Bar. His pies were famous throughout the town, hence such allusions as "The Kit-Cat is a supper for a lord," and "Kit-Cat wits sprang first from Kit-Cat pies."

But the Kit-Cat was not merely an assembly of men anxious to pay appetite's tribute to meat pies. It was composed of statesmen and wits, like Lord Somers and Sir Robert Walpole, John Dryden and Richard Steele, men

of rank and learning, and patriots all; and they met for the encouragement of literature and the fine arts and, of more importance, for political discussion and to champion the cause of the House of Hanover.

The secretary, and, in fact, the king-pin of the Kit-Cat Club, was Jacob Tonson, the publisher, described by Wycherley as "Gentleman-Usher to the Muses," and by Nicholas Rowe, as "the cheer-fullest, best, honest fellow living." How much he meant to the club is revealed in a letter written to him in 1703 by architect Sir John Vanbrugh. "The Kit-Cat Club wants you much more than you ever can do them," and a month later, "The Kit-Cat will never meet without you, so you see here is stagnation for want of you." It was about this time that Tonson's house at Barns Elms near Putney became the club's meeting-place, where the famous Kneller portraits were first displayed.

The Kit-Cat Club seems to have faded out during the reign of George the First. Its guiding star, Jacob Tonson, died in 1736, a few months after he had published a handsome volume of mezzo-tint engravings by John Faber of the Kit-Cat portraits. His great-nephew, also Jacob Tonson, succeeded to the publishing business, and to the famous portraits. These have remained in the family possession ever since, and largely through their public spiritedness the National Art-Collections Fund has been able to give them finally into the Nation's keeping.

POTATO KING

POTATO King of Great Britain is the title often given to Mr D. McKelvie, of Lamlash, because of the number of times he has won the Lord Derby medal for the best new variety of potato grown in official trials. He has now won the medal for the eighth time by producing a new maincrop variety called, Arran Viking.



THIS ENGLAND

The manor house and church at Gayton in Northamptonshire

A New Pattern in Education

THE First of April this year is a day to be remembered in the story of our nation's education, for it marks the beginning of a new era of trained efficiency and broad-based knowledge.

In the pattern of the new Education Act to come into force on April 1 many important details remained to be filled in, and these have now been set out in draft regulations.

Perhaps the most important among them is that the Government intend that none but qualified teachers shall be employed in our schools. But with the present shortage of qualified teachers, it is impossible to insist upon this principle immediately, and so the Minister of Education will approve the appointment of temporary teachers for five years. It is hoped that temporary teachers who are satisfactory will take courses of training, so as to become qualified.

The sizes of classes are specified. Classes for pupils mainly under three must not have more than 15 pupils, for those between three and five not more than 30, for any other class in a primary school 40 (30 if the children are mostly over twelve), and for secondary school forms not more than 30. Excesses of the numbers quoted will only be agreed to if there is unavoidable lack of teaching staff or accommodation.

No charge is to be made to parents of pupils entered for such external examinations, as the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate. Furthermore, the approval of the Minister will have to be obtained before any pupils under 17 can be entered for them.

School terms must normally total not less than 40 weeks a year, but up to ten days of mid-term or occasional holidays may be granted, in addition to the normal school holidays.

The regulations provide for financial assistance and scholarships to enable pupils to take advantage, without hardship to themselves or their parents, of educational facilities available.

Such special expenses as the cost of school uniforms, expenses incurred in attending camps, outings, and other activities outside the school curriculum, and expenses of membership of school clubs held outside school hours, may be paid by the authorities.

Maintenance allowances related to the parents' income may be paid to any pupil over the compulsory school age.

Special plans are made for assisting qualified students at universities and other places of higher education. The Minister will agree to scales which provide the maximum award where the net income of the parents is not more than £600 a year, the award tapering to nothing at £1500 a year. Maximum awards proposed are £175 a year for students at Oxford and Cambridge, £160 at London, £140 elsewhere, £90 for London university students living at home and £75 for other university students living at home. Approved tuition fees may be added to these amounts.

THE SKYWAYS OF TOMORROW

THE shape of British air transport for many years to come has been outlined in a Government White Paper.

The essence of the Government's plan is that sea and land transport interests shall be brought into real and effective partnership with British Overseas Airways and any other civil air organisations that may wish to join in as subsidiary companies.

The Government propose that there shall be three main air transport corporations. One will comprise the large British shipping lines and British Overseas Airways and will operate the British Commonwealth and Atlantic routes, to be extended later to China and the Far East. Another, in which the railway companies, the short sea shipping lines, the travel agencies and British Overseas Airways will combine, will take over the air routes to Europe and within Great Britain. The third corporation, to be controlled by British shipping lines with British Overseas Airways, will take over the South American route.

The Government intend that, as far as possible, civil aviation shall be self-supporting, that is to say, that it shall receive no subsidies from State funds.

The three corporations are to fly British aircraft eventually, and, of vital importance, there is to be a common organisation for the overhaul of aircraft, and a common school for the training of crews and technicians.

A complete network of air communications with the British Commonwealth is being planned.

The Postmaster-General is considering how to make the fullest possible use of the new services for air mail purposes.

The Minister of Civil Aviation will be responsible to Parliament for the working of this mighty peacetime air plan, and he will see that the three corporations are "model employers."

Lend-Lease in Reverse

AMONG the latest items of materials rendered under Lend-Lease in reverse to our American Ally by the British Government are 40 hospital trains to carry the American wounded in France and England. Also three hospital ships and five hospital carriers have been assigned to the U.S. Government to take American wounded back to the United States.

Since October last Britain has spent one thousand million pounds on material supplied to her Ally under reverse Lend-Lease.

KEEN SCHOLARS

MANY boys and girls in the backblocks of Australia and New Zealand travel long distances each day to attend school. Two children in Victoria, Australia, ride ponies six miles to a bus stop and then travel 35 miles in the bus to get to school—78 miles by the time they arrive home again.

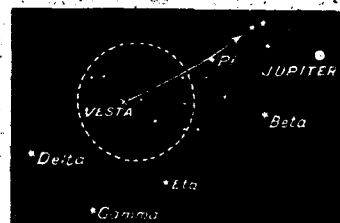
There are many cases such as this; and some of the boys and girls have work to be done at home before they leave, and all have homework to do when they arrive home. In spite of all difficulties their attendance average is high.

Vesta, a Fragment of a Long-Lost World

VESTA, a little world that only rarely comes near enough to be observed without a telescope, may now be found in the south-east sky as soon as it is dark, writes the C.N. Astronomer.

This tiny world, only 243 miles in diameter, is of great interest but, as might be supposed, is very faint and on the present occasion of its visit will not be perceptible to the naked eye. It may be easily seen, however, with the aid of field or opera glasses or any small telescope, but the problem is how to find so small and faint an object.

Fortunately, Jupiter, the brightest object in that part of the sky, will help considerably; his position relative to other easily identified stars of the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin, is indicated on the star-map.



Vesta's position now, indicated by X. The arrow shows her path during the next four weeks

There it will be seen that the present position of Vesta, marked X, appears between Delta and Jupiter, and that her curved path, shown by the arrow, will during the next month bring her much nearer to Jupiter. At present Vesta is within the broken circle, which is the approximate field of view of the glasses, shown on the map. The faint stars shown there will be a great help in identifying Vesta, which will appear slightly fainter than most of them when seen through the glasses. All that is necessary in order to identify which of these faint points of light is Vesta is to note which of them moves. All the others remain apparently fixed relative to one another.

A good plan is to make a sketch on paper, very precisely indicating the positions of all those stars appearing in the field of view of the glasses, then a few nights later take another view of the same area and com-

pare them with the sketch. Vesta will have revealed herself by her motion relative to the other faint stars. Thereafter Vesta may be followed as she travels towards the brighter star Pi, which is easily seen with the naked eye. Sometimes Vesta is perceptible without glasses, but she does not come near enough to us on this occasion of her apparition or periodical visit. Just now Vesta is near her average or mean distance from the Sun, which is 219,000,000 miles, and being at her nearest to us next week will bring her to within about 130,000,000 miles.

Vesta is therefore now at her brightest, so with the absence of the Moon from the evening sky, next week will be a good time for seeking this little world or planetoid. Vesta was not discovered until March 29, 1807, and only comes into good position for observation at intervals of about four years.

Actually, Vesta appears to be only a fragmentary part of a much greater world that once existed, and then, as the result of some colossal catastrophe, broke up into thousands of fragments. Over 2500 of them are definitely known, and most of them named until appropriate names ran short, when numbers were adopted and now are applied to all. Vesta thus becomes No 4, having been the fourth discovered. The earlier ones are Ceres (1), discovered January 1, 1801; Pallas (2), March 28, 1802; and Juno (3) September 1, 1804. But Vesta, though not the largest, is the only one that ever appears perceptible to the naked eye; this is believed to be due to much of her hard, rocky surface being white crystalline material. Variations in the light of many of these planetoids seem to indicate that they are not circular spheres but great angular masses of rock rolling through space, though each one has a very definite orbit. It is estimated that there are some 44,000 approaching a mile or so in diameter.

G. F. M.

HEROIC DEVON LIFEBOATMEN

A TALE of daring and humanity comes from Devon. For seven hours during a night of raging gale and blinding rain six men in the Brixham lifeboat battled for the lives of 19 sailors on two ships helplessly aground on the rocky coast.

The stricken boats were a tug and a vessel she had been towing. The lifeboat—manned by six instead of the usual eight men—found the tug among the breakers close inshore with a rock on the side of her away from the storm. There was nothing for it but to manoeuvre to the windward side of her in water so shallow that the rescuers' boat constantly bumped on the bottom in the trough of immense seas.

Yet the lifeboatmen managed to get alongside and lash their boat to the tug. It took them half an hour to take off the 14 members of the tug's crew.

The Brixham men at once took the exhausted sailors back to their harbour and immediately set out to save the five men in the other vessel.

This was a more difficult proposition still, for the other ship was lying farther inshore and in shallower water than the tug, and again they were obliged to get on the windward side of her. The gallant lifeboatmen, however, succeeded in getting alongside the rolling, bumping wreck, and after another long struggle, with waves breaking over them, they took off the five men and bore them also back to harbour.

For their great courage and skill, the Coxswain, F. C. Sanders, has been awarded the R.N.L.I.'s silver medal, the motor mechanic, R. T. Harris, the bronze medal, and the other four members of the crew the R.N.L.I.'s Thanks on vellum.

BEDTIME CORNER

Jupiter and the Bee

A BEE gave a pot of honey to Jupiter, who was so pleased that he asked the bee what he would like as a present in return.

The bee requested that wherever he should set his sting it might cause death.

Jupiter did not want to leave people at the mercy of such a spiteful insect, and so instead of granting the wish, he told the bee to be very careful how he stung, for if he left his sting behind it would cost him his own life.

The spiteful are often punished.

STABLE FRIENDS

ON the back of dear old Dobbin

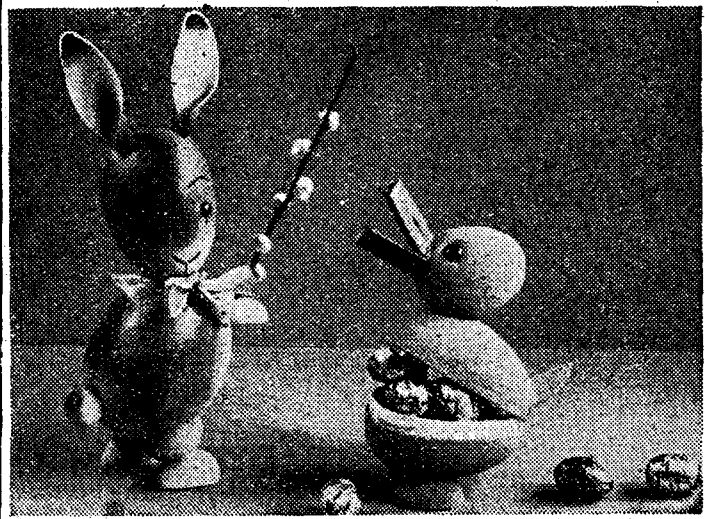
Sits a cheeky little robin;
Legs too short to ride a straddle—

'Sides, he hasn't any saddle!

AN EASTER PRAYER

DEAR LORD, we thank Thee for the gift of Easter, for all the spring joyousness it brings, and greater than all, for Thy wondrous love which sent Thine only beloved Son to die on earth that we might live. Amen

An Easter Meeting



AMERICA'S WONDER VALLEY

BY THE C.N. CORRESPONDENT IN AMERICA

AMERICA is a land of great rivers—the Hudson, the Columbia, the Rio Grande, the Colorado, and, above all, the Mississippi—with its great tributaries the Missouri, the Ohio, and the Tennessee. All these rivers can be unruly, covering their valleys with impetuous floods which drown the cattle, destroy the crops, and annually bring disaster to hundreds of farmers.

Of these rivers one of the most violent and lawless is the Tennessee, which draws its headwaters from the mountains of Virginia and the Carolinas and envelops seven states in the vast area known as the Tennessee Valley, which has become America's Wonder Valley.

Something has happened there during the last ten years which is an object lesson for the whole world. The Tennessee Valley, a district as large as the whole of England, is the scene of the operation of the Tennessee Valley Authority. This, commonly known as the TVA, was brought into being by President Roosevelt and his government to control the river and to give this great area new farms, new industries, new houses, and, above all, new hope.

"What has happened in the Tennessee Valley," says Mr David Lilienthal, the head of TVA, "is a story of how waters once wasted and destructive have been controlled and now work, night and day, creating electric energy to lighten the burden of human drudgery. It is a story of the people and how they have worked to create a new valley."

There was first the stupendous physical job of controlling the

river—a giant which in the heavy rains broke its banks. Twenty-seven huge dams were built which provide ten billion kilowatts of electrical energy each year. This vast undertaking cost over one hundred million pounds, but already a handsome yearly profit goes to provide for cost.

These great dams have provided a new lake system for the valley, six hundred miles long, bringing inland seas to people who live hundreds of miles away from the ocean. Through the control of this vast volume of water floods cannot happen, mosquito breeding-grounds are destroyed, and millions of derelict areas have been brought into cultivation.

Before the TVA got to work millions of acres were being slowly eroded by the violent rain storms, and the soil was being washed down the river. Now the experts know how to terrace the fields and to plant trees to hold the soil. The farmers are encouraged to copy the methods. Before the TVA came this great valley was dependent on two main industries—corn and cotton growing. If they failed everything failed. Now, with cheap electricity, mines are working, there is machinery on the farms, with freezing plants working there is a big new fruit industry growing, small manufacturers of every kind are settling in the valley, and the young people, instead of going away to find work, now find plenty within reach of home.

During wartime the mighty power of TVA has delivered aircraft, aluminium, phosphates, nitrates, ships, chemicals, shells, and bombs. In peacetime it will bring the same power to make this wonder valley a place of rich land and happy people. To do all this was once a dream in the minds of a few people. Now it has come true and what has been done here can be done to bring prosperity to a score of other river valleys where disaster is now of frequent occurrence.

A Wayside Stone

Down in Cornwall there is a wayside stone which was not disturbed when guide-posts and milestones were put out of sight for security reasons. This stone had stood in the hedge for generations, and its inscription, "take off," had puzzled many a modern traveller.

Actually it is a relic of the old coaching days when a toll-house did duty at the foot of the steep hill a mile or so away. When a stage-coach or heavily-laden wagon arrived at the toll-house and the driver had paid the toll of sixpence per horse, he was allowed to take on an extra horse, without further expense, to help the load up the hill. Then, as soon as the stone on the summit was reached, he was duly directed to take off.

Whoa! Horses would be pulled up, and off would come the extra horse to be sent back to the toll-house; and if, perchance, he did not take off but drove gaily on there was always a penalty for disobeying.

Thanks to the RAF

OUR troops entering German industrial towns can now see for themselves the effect of Allied bombing on the enemy's war machine, and they greatly appreciate the heroic work of their comrades in the air in easing their path into Germany, said General Eisenhower in a message of congratulation to Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris.

Sir Arthur Harris replied that for the past five years his crews had fought ever harder and ever deeper into the very heart of the enemy's every war resource, and the RAF were glad to know that their comrades in the armies recognised in the ruined German war factories a chief reason why they had been spared the long-drawn agonies and the fearful casualties of the last war.

NEW CHURCHES FOR ESSEX

CHURCH buildings have suffered in blitzed Essex. Forty-one churches, parsonages, and halls have been so badly damaged by bombs that they will have to be entirely rebuilt after the war, and another 665 church buildings are badly in need of repair owing to bomb damage. In addition to this, new churches are needed in places that are at present without one and improvements to church schools in the county are necessary. The cost of carrying out this work is estimated at £300,000 and the Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Wilson, recently launched an appeal.

It seems an ambitious figure to aim at, but Dr Wilson is an expert in raising funds. Some years ago he collected nearly £300,000 for new churches and schools in his diocese, so there is every hope that he will repeat his former achievement.

A Difficult Problem

MANY who were children when war broke out are now young men and women. They have little knowledge and no experience of life as older people knew it before the war. This fact is apt to be overlooked, but it has got to be faced when we come to pick up the threads of peace again.

Dr Cyril James, Principal of McGill University, Montreal, who has been on a visit to London, drew attention to this problem at a luncheon given in his honour, and he pleaded for vision and realism in facing it.

Incidentally, Dr James told his audience that over six thousand of McGill's former students were on active service with the armed forces. A proud record, indeed, for this century-old university.

THIS KIND WORLD

THE girls at Richmond High School, Yorkshire, hearing of the pitiable plight of school-children in Greece, have adopted a school in Arachova.

They have been shown pictures of the school in lantern lectures, and have made arrangements to assist the children there in every practicable way possible. To make themselves familiar with Greek life and thought today they have learnt to sing the Greek National Anthem and have made models of prominent buildings in Greece.

LET US NOW SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MEMBERS of Parliament have complained that our Army emulates its Silent Sister Service and shyly hides from the world news of its magnificent achievements. Recently, however, Sir James Grigg, War Minister, told something of its wonderful story when he introduced the Army Estimates in the House of Commons.

The British Army landed on the Normandy coast on June 6 last year, crossed the River Seine on August 28, reached Brussels on September 3, and Antwerp on September 4. It is led by a Commander who is probably the greatest British general since the Duke of Marlborough. Of Field-Marshal Montgomery's military skill Sir James related how six weeks before D Day General Montgomery showed him on a map where he thought the Germans would be 90 days after the invasion. Eighty days after D Day the Germans were almost exactly where General Montgomery had foreseen—caught in a trap at Falaise.

Nevertheless, Field-Marshal Montgomery's military genius would have been of no avail had he not commanded an army which, as Sir James said, had perfected itself by rigorous training and was equipped as no British army has ever been equipped before.

The British tanks that fought their way from Normandy's beaches to the Rhine were specially designed for the quick movements required of the armour of a modern army on the offensive; they are equipped with a gun firing a new type of ammunition superior to anything the Germans possess. The War Minister pointed out that though the German Royal Tiger tank is a formidable weapon, its designers sacrificed speed and mobility to thickness of armour. If the British Army had been equipped with tanks like these last year it would not have been able to make its dash from the Seine to Belgium.

Sir James gave a few details of the colossal task of keeping our invasion army supplied. Immediately after our men landed in Normandy two million 24-hour rations were issued, together with three million self-heating tins of soup and cocoa. Sixty million gallons of petrol in tins and 16,000 tons of coal in 500,000 rot-proof bags were prepared for early shipment. During 60 days before June 6 the Ordnance

depots issued 12,000 tanks and armoured cars, 60,000 lorries, and two million spare parts. Sir James added a well-deserved tribute to the ATS for their share of this terrific work.

Our Army is as efficient today as ever. Field-Marshal Montgomery said of his British troops before the latest offensive which has carried the Allies to the Rhine: "It was a great inspiration to see such fine soldiers ready and anxious for battle, our nation having been at war for over five years." Some of the toughest of the recent fighting has fallen to the Canadian 1st Army, two-thirds of which are men from the United Kingdom.

The War Minister said that after the defeat of Germany long service soldiers will be released, but their places will have to be taken for the war against Japan by men called up from civil life, including some in reserved occupations. Sir James reminded us of our duty to defeat Japan, not only in our material interests but to establish and maintain the great principle for which our fellow-countrymen have fallen in battle.

Salute the Soldier is a phrase which has been fully justified wherever our armies have fought in this terrific struggle, and it is an expression of gratitude and respect which must not be allowed to grow dim.

Saying It With Flowers

BRITISH Italy and North Africa troops are placing orders at Naafi clubs for flowers to be delivered in the United Kingdom. Naafi send air mail orders to its H.Q. in Britain, and the Women's Voluntary Services arrange delivery. Orders amounting to £37,000 have already been received.

She knows the answer!



SOUND HEALTH COMES FROM DAILY HALIBORANGE

Alert young faces, radiant with health show what Haliborange can do in maintaining fitness through trying winter months. Rich in vital vitamins A, C and D, this fine tonic is made from pure Halibut Liver Oil with juice of fresh ripe oranges. It is delicious to take.

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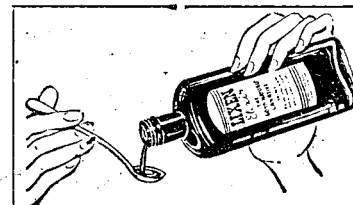
Chest was raw with coughing until—



Pineate

HONEY COUGH-SYRUP

a dose of soothing 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup brought immediate relief and restful sleep. 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup eases chest, throat and lungs and breaks up stubborn phlegm. It is delicious to take. Only half a teaspoonful will check a cough immediately. Buy a 1/9 bottle to-day. (Price includes Purchase Tax). Good for children too! Insist on



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Purchase Tax included.

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THE GOOD-NATURED

Laxative

L/54

Jacko's Easter Joke



JACKO and Baby had been sent to buy hot cross buns. The shopkeeper gave them a large empty Easter egg and Jacko at once had an idea. They took the egg home and he lifted Baby into it and closed the lid. When Mrs Jacko came in she said: "Oh, that naughty pair have bought this egg instead of buns!" Then up popped Baby with the buns. Jacko roared with delight at his mother's surprise.

POTTED HUMOUR

THE subject for the essay was The Funniest Thing I Ever Saw.

Little Jim finished so quickly that the teacher, curious, looked over his shoulder and read:

The funniest thing I ever saw was too funny for words.

A Mystery Number

Unto a certain numeral One letter add. Sad fate, What first was solitary You will annihilate.

Answer next week



"What is peacetime like?"

He has grown up in the biggest war of all time. He hasn't known what peace meant. It is going to be a strange and wonderful new world. Whatever happiness 'after the war' has in store for him, one thing will count most — good health. During wartime you have found how 'Milk of Magnesia' has helped to keep him fit and free from minor stomach troubles.

In the happier days ahead, 'Milk of Magnesia' will, even as now, be your standby — never absent from the medicine cabinet.

'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

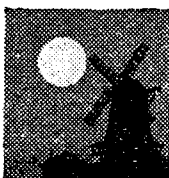
Try This Catch

ASK a friend to put a newspaper on the floor so that both he and you can stand on it without being able to touch each other.

He will most probably fail. Then just show him that it is quite simple if the paper is put under a closed door with you on one side and himself on the other.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Mercury and Venus are in the south-west. Uranus is in the south-west later. Saturn is in the south, and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28.

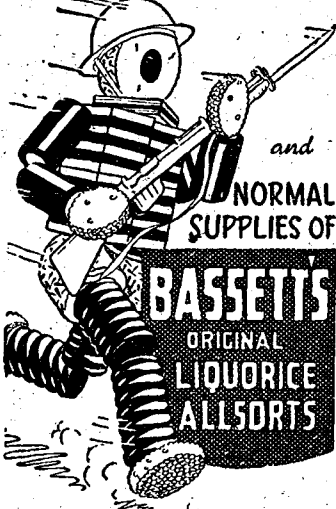


CHARADE

My first is to gather,
My second is used by a woodman.
My whole is a useful tool.

Answer next week

FORWARD TO VICTORY!



Apologies to customers unable to obtain BASSETT'S—due to Zoning

The BRAN TUB

A Long Time Dead

"THIS is the best fish we've had for years," confided the waiter.

"Bring me some you haven't had quite so long, please," requested the customer.

A Potato Problem

A PUZZLED cook-general called White.
Said, "Surely it cannot be right To cook spuds in their skin When their jacket's the thing, I shall cloak mine in batter to-night."

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

THE Courageous Missel Thrush. From the topmost branch of a tall tree the bird continued to pour forth his song, as if in defiance of the cold, driving rain. "What a brave thrush," commented Don, pointing out the bird to Farmer Gray.

"It's a Missel Thrush," answered the farmer. "Although like the song thrush in appearance, he is considerably larger and lighter in colour. The name is due to his liking for Mistletoe berries. He is undaunted by the roughest weather, and for this reason is sometimes called the stormcock as a tribute to his courage, which is a fine example to us all."

DBST

DOUBLE British Summer Time begins early in the morning of Monday, April 2, so do not forget to advance your clocks one hour before going to bed on Easter Sunday.

Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC programmes for Wednesday, March 28, to Tuesday, April 3.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 The BBC Scottish Orchestra, conductor Guy Warrack, plays music by Russian composers; followed by Isobel Wylie Hutchison describing a visit to Greenland, and her meeting with a famous explorer and collector of folk-music—Professor William Thalbitzer.

THURSDAY, 5.20 St Jonathan's in the Country: the last part of a sequel to The Borrowed Garden, written by Kathleen Fidler.

FRIDAY, 5.20 The Story of Holy Week, compiled from the New Testament, by Geoffrey Dearmer and John Williams.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Country Magazine—Children's Number from Somerset. This programme is based on the Home Service broadcast of March 11. 5.50 Eric Christmas entertains.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Before the Swallow Dares: verse and music for Easter, chosen by Geoffrey Dearmer. Read by Norman Shelley, Mac and Elizabeth. 5.45 Easter Service.

MONDAY, 5.20 Kicking Tree, the story of a very short giraffe, by Antonia Ridge; followed by The King's Agent, a play by Constance Tear.

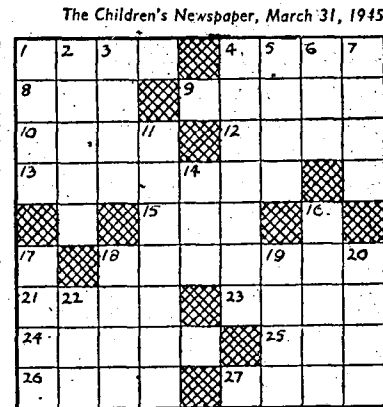
TUESDAY, 5.30 Down at the Mains, by R. Gordon McCallum.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Rapid. 4 A kind of cloak. 8 Every one. 9 To raise frivolous objections. 10 A gas used for illuminated signs. 12 Belonging to the males. 13 Bigger. 15 A state of equality. 18 Expressions. 21 An approach. 23 A kind of well. 24 Vision. 25 A deer. 26 They entertain the troops. 27 To ward off.

Reading Down. 1 A long, pointed tooth. 2 Watchful. 3 Blackthorn fruit. 4 These make likenesses. 5 Above in authority. 6 A metal fastener. 7 Besides. 11 An oil used for lighting. 14 A black viscous fluid. 16 An acid fruit. 17 To overthrow. 18 Swine. 19 Certain. 20 Made haste. 22 Noise.

Answer next week



FACTS ABOUT NEPAL

AN independent kingdom in the Himalaya Mountains north of India, Nepal is the country from which the famous Gurkhas are recruited for the Indian army. It is 500 miles long and 150 wide. Mount Everest is partly within its borders. The valleys between the mountains are fertile, and the climate varies according to the height of each district.

Population, about 5,600,000.

Capital, Katmandu, population, 108,805. Religion, the Gurkhas mostly practise an ancient form of Hinduism. There are a few Buddhists. Exports cattle, hides, gums, resins, dyes, jute, grains, clarified butter, seeds, spices, tobacco, and timber from Nepal's rich forests.

There are two railway lines, one 25 miles long, and the other 33 miles. There is one motor road of 27 miles.

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